

# Chicopee Register

COMMUNITY

## City receives grant to combat nitrogen pollution

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Steps are being taken to minimize nitrogen pollution at the Chicopee Water Pollution Control Facility (CWPCF) on Medina Street.

On Feb. 2, the Chicopee City Council accepted the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Water Pollution Control Nitrogen Project Grant. The \$14,737 award will be used to prepare a study to identify low-cost improvements to reduce nitrogen at the facility.

“As you know, we have our own wastewater treatment plant. There is concern about the affluent discharge of nitrogen levels going into the river. This grant will help us to get in compliance with the [Environmental Protection Agency],” said Mayor John Vieau during his Feb. 2 Briefing.

The CWPCF serves to protect rivers and streams that are in or near Chicopee. The 15.5 million gallon per day secondary wastewater treatment facility maintains and operates over 200 miles of public



The city is working to minimize nitrogen pollution at the Chicopee Water Pollution Control Facility on Medina Street. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

sewer and drain lines.

The operation is responsible for maintaining the city’s sewer and drain systems, as well as its flood control system. The CWPCF also monitors industrial waste water, oversees storm water pollution

prevention and treats collected sewage.

From coast to coast, nitrogen pollution is negatively affecting bodies of water throughout the country. The challenging and costly problem is caused by excess nitro-

gen and phosphorus in the air and water.

An excess of nitrogen and phosphorus in water causes algae to grow at a rate that ecosystems can’t control. Large-scale increases in algae

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COMMUNITY

### Springdale Ed. Ctr. eyes move

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HEALTH

### AMR sees new EMT’s graduate

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COMMUNITY

### St. Pat’s Day Committe holds fundraiser

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POLICE

## Search continues for missing Chicopee boy



The Massachusetts State Police Marine Unit is circling the Connecticut and Chicopee Rivers in hopes of locating 11-year-old Chicopee student Aiden Blanchard. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MASS. STATE POLICE

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – An 11-year-old Chicopee boy is missing, and an extensive search remains ongoing as of Wednesday afternoon. Aiden Blanchard was last seen on Feb. 5 around 11:30 a.m. near Old Field Road, heading to-

wards the Medina Street boat ramp in Chicopee’s Willimansett neighborhood.

Local and state authorities are spearheading the search for Blanchard, and the Massachusetts State Police Marine Unit has now searched the Connecticut River on multi-

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HEALTH

## Chicopee still waiting on state approval for municipal vaccination site

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Chicopee Mayor John Vieau and the Chicopee City Council are working with the state to obtain more COVID-19 vaccines for residents, since there currently aren’t enough to meet demand – a problem many other municipalities in the state are experiencing.

Chicopee’s elected officials are pursuing the potential establishment of vaccination sites within the city’s limits.

“The state is allotted vaccines from the federal government and then distributes these vaccines to local sites,” said Vieau on Feb. 10. “We have and continue to fight to obtain our share of vaccines and to have CVS, Walgreens, Big Y and Stop & Shop in Chicopee approved as vaccine distribution sites.”

The Eastfield Mall on Boston Road in Springfield is currently the closest mass vaccination site to Chicopee, and the only one in Western Mass. Municipal employees are available to assist residents obtain appointments at the Eastfield Mall location or other vaccination sites and pharmacies in Western Massachusetts.

Chicopee has applied for

the RiverMills Senior Center to earn its designation as a municipal vaccination distribution site for city residents only. The facility on West Main Street is currently being used as the city’s municipal COVID-19 testing site and has the capability to expand its role.

“The Health Department, our city physician, the fire department and police department have coordinated efforts with the senior center staff to design an efficient and effective site,” said Vieau.

Like all other municipalities, Chicopee must follow the phased-in vaccination process that has been outlined by Gov. Charlie Baker. The state is currently in Step 1 of Phase II, and individuals aged 75 or older are eligible to be inoculated, along with one of their caregivers, Baker announced on Monday.

While doses are delayed, they will likely be available for Chicopee’s general population in the spring. Until that point, residents are encouraged to take a deep breath and continue in accordance to COVID-19 safe practices.

“We are awaiting the state’s approval [to establish a vaccination site at the RiverMills Center] and alloca-

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SPORTS

### Walsh receives award

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# Springdale Education Center likely moving to Chicopee



The vacant building on 2nd Avenue that once housed office space for the Wall Street Journal will soon welcome the Springdale Education Center, an institution that serves children, teenagers and young adults with serious mental health issues. *TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI*

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
*Staff Writer*

CHICOPEE – The Springfield Education Center will soon relocate from Maple Street in Holyoke to 2nd Avenue in Chicopee.

Since opening in 1997, the facility has served individuals with serious mental health issues, providing them with educational, clinical, psychoeducational, behavioral and outreach services.

Director Patti Cutler appeared before the Chicopee School Committee on Feb. 3, requesting the board's written consent for the center to operate in the city.

"We're a highly structured school that works with emotionally disturbed, behaviorally disordered and clinically impaired kids, as well as being academically involved. We have [students] from Kindergarten through 21 years old who have multiple needs on the clinical, the behavioral and educational

spectrum," said Cutler. For the transition to be approved by the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the school committee must first offer its blessing. The Springdale Education Center currently serves 52 students, a population that its current home wasn't designed for.

"Our building is too small for us," said Cutler. "Some of my documents say that when we opened years ago, we anticipated 27 students. You build it, and they come. We currently have 52 students and are out of room, particularly with COVID right now."

The center is managed by the Positive Regard Network, a developer of educational services that serves more than 9,000 students in and near Western Massachusetts.

In September of 2019, the PRN purchased the former Dow Jones & Co. building at 84 Second Ave. in Chicopee to house the center. There, the Springdale Education Center will be joined

by its sister school and PRN affiliate, the 100-student Center for School Crisis Intervention & Assessment.

The Center for School Crisis Intervention & Assessment "deals with medically fragile, handicapped, educationally impaired, social-emotional kids," said Cutler.

A representative of the institution will appear before the Chicopee School Committee in the coming weeks.

Once accepted into Chicopee, the Springdale Education Center will continue to offer a robust curriculum that includes ELA, science, social studies, math and the arts in addition to other subjects. Students at the center take the MCAT each year.

"The students have a full six-hour day with us. The entire day is structured. Our entire day is included in our structured-learning time. From the time the students get off the bus, there's a routine that they are expected to follow. Even during snack time or lunchtime, we work on the



The Springdale Education Center has called Holyoke's Maple Street its home for well over a decade but will soon relocate to Chicopee.

said Jill Brewer, educational administrator at the center.

Cutler hopes the center will inhabit the west wing of the Second Avenue structure by the summer.

In Holyoke, the center has facilitated full-time, in-person learning since the state permitted it to do so on July 6, 2020, said Cutler.

Currently, approximately two-thirds of the student population learns in-person each day; students in the other third either learn remotely or on a hybrid schedule.

"We really see the kids," said Cutler. "The whole purpose of our school, which was created many, many years ago, was to serve a population that really wasn't able to be served in schools. We pride ourselves in saying that whoever gets re-

served anywhere else." The Springdale Education Center has established a healthy relationship with Chicopee Public Schools over the years, said Cutler, who anticipates finding more space in Chicopee.

"For every eight special needs students, there's one teacher and one interventionist in the classroom. That doesn't count the one-to-ones that we might have to put in there as well. We're very heavy-staffed. We need more room and are looking forward to coming to Chicopee," said Cutler.

On Feb. 17, the school committee is expected to vote in favor of submitting a letter of approval for the center's relocation.

*Dalton Zbierski can be reached at [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com).*

## ART-ventures for Kids: February vacation art fun

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Parks & Recreation in conjunction with ART-ventures for Kids is offering in-person classes during school vacation.

There are two classes being offered for children, grades K -5: Watercolor Places and Pencil Cases on Thursday, Feb. 18; and Silly Cities and Wiggly Waves on Friday, Feb. 19.

The classes will be held at the parks and recreation office from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Masks will be worn at all times. The fee per day is \$40 for residents and \$45 for non-residents.

Spaces is limited; those interested can sign up for one or both classes. For more information or to register online, go to [www.ARTventuresforkids.com](http://www.ARTventuresforkids.com)

## Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee launches March Money Madness fundraiser

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee is once again selling "March Money Madness" calendars to benefit the committee's activities.

Calendars are \$10 each and give the purchaser 31 chances to win. A drawing is held every day during the month of March. Prizes range from \$50 to \$300.


Proceeds from calendar sales will support the committee's current expenses and future activities. Although the 2020 and 2021 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parades were canceled, rent for storing the

Colleen's float and other expenses still need to be paid. The committee has also begun planning events leading up to the 2022 parade, which promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Calendars can be purchased by calling Haley at (413) 426-6825, or by contacting any committee member. More information is also available on the committee's Facebook page.

Watch the Committee's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/chicopeespc/> beginning on March 1 for results of the raffle drawings, which will be posted daily.

The Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee strives to promote Irish pride and culture through its many events. For over 65 years, the committee has organized the annual Colleen Contest and Coronation Ball, constructed the Colleen's award-winning float for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade, and awarded scholarships to young women who plan to further their education at a college or university.



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Correction

A story in the Dec. 18 edition of the Register attributed several quotes to a source with the last name King. The quotes were from Dr. Lisa Lewis, not King.

More dynamic leadership needed at Soldiers’ Home

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Insufficient leadership enabled the COVID-19 outbreak at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke to claim the lives of at least 76 veterans last year. It has become clear that more will be expected out of the facility’s next permanent superintendent.

On Feb. 9, the Special Joint Oversight Committee on the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke COVID-19 Outbreak convened for the second time in 2021. A panel of state representatives and senators heard testimony from numerous individuals, including multiple members of the facility’s board of trustees.

“Going forward, the appropriate thing to do is have someone who is qualified in that superintendent position,” said trustee Isaac Mass. “They should have capability, even having a background or knowledge in a medical environment.”

When the outbreak escalated in March 2020, former Soldiers’ Home Superintend Walsh failed to make critical inquiries or request assistance in a timely manner before acting inside of the facility, where at least 80 staff members and an additional 84 veterans contracted COVID-19 in 2020.

Despite his decorated military career, Walsh was inexperienced in operating a 24/7 care facility. Prior to the pandemic, Marylou Sudders, the state’s Secretary of Health and Human Services, had several reservations concerning Walsh’s capability and encouraged him to enroll in the career program at Suffolk University.

“My concern about the superintendent was that since he had a distinguished military background but had not worked in 24/7 congregate care, long-term care background, there was a strong belief to [employ] a deputy who had that kind of background to balance the skillset the superintendent had,” Sudders said.

It wasn’t until Dec. 20, 2020, long after Walsh’s firing, that the Executive Office of Health and Human Services announced Glen Hevy as Deputy. Hevy was previously the senior operations official for patient care services at the 400-bed Bedford VA Medical Center.

Trustee Mass reiterated that a “lack of leadership” led to last year’s outbreak and voiced confidence in the interim superintendent, Michael Lazo.

“[Lazo] is acutely aware of the issues of the Soldiers Home and the resources that are available to him,” Mass said. “While long-term our, or at least my, hope

is to have someone who is [medically] qualified, in the short term, I think that we are covered in the leadership and staffing at the home if there’s additional crises that comes up.”

Trustee Kevin Jourdain, the Soldiers’ Home’s former Chairman, is promoting the creation of a crisis hotline that would connect veterans, staff and family members with an outside agency.

Jourdain regrets that the board was unable to assist in a greater capacity during the outbreak at the Soldiers’ Home. He believes that the body is treated by state officials as an advisory board, when, in fact, statutes give it much greater authority.

“If you don’t know the nature of the work, you just take at face value what you’re told by people in charge,” said Jourdain. “I’ll say it again on the record. They act like we don’t matter because they’re literally saying, one, ‘We’re going to [act] irrespective of the board, basically.’”

Jourdain is frustrated regarding the slow process of bringing a new facility to Holyoke. He feels as though state has ignored the trustees as it goes about pushing a capital plan for a \$300 million home.

The current plan is for a 192-bed facility with a caveat for an additional floor that would create space for an additional 37 beds. Mass said that the state’s proposal has been poorly received by some parties.

“That is certainly far lower than what the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home Coalition is advocating for 280 beds,” said Mass. “There are some additional complications in that the nature of healthcare is changing for veterans coming back. There are more instances related to TBI issues and behavior health issues. The plan that was presented to us does not contemplate beds for those services.”

State Senator John Velis of the Second Hampden and Hampshire District agreed that more services must be provided. He found it unfortunate that lives were lost before the need for improvements was widely accepted.

“These are the kinds of things that, unfortunately, we don’t talk about until a tragedy strikes. We have a lot of families of veterans who don’t have their loved ones anymore,” said Velis. “It’s very easy for us to be Monday morning quarterbacks, but there are certain things you look at; there could have been a more expedient resolution.”

*Dalton Zbierski can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.*

Chicopee man pleads guilty to heroin distribution

BOSTON – A Chicopee man pleaded guilty on Feb. 4 in federal court in Springfield to drug distribution charges.

Brett Garcia, 33, pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin. U.S. District Court Judge Mark G. Mastroianni scheduled sentencing for May 21, 2021. Garcia was indicted in May 2020.

Garcia possessed with intent to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin on Feb. 28, 2020 in Hampden County. The indictment was the result of an investigation into heroin trafficking in Chicopee.

The charging statute provides for a sentence of at least five years and up to 40

years in prison, at least four years of supervised release and a fine of \$2 million. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Division; Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; and Chicopee Police Chief William R. Jebb made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd E. Newhouse of Lelling’s Springfield Branch Office is prosecuting the case.

STCC announces fall 2020 dean’s list

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College announces 834 students were named to the fall 2020 dean’s list.

The dean’s list is published each semester to recognize excellence in academic performance. To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

Chicopee:  
Eman Abdul Baki, Juan E. Almes-tica, Mubashra Rafiq Awan, Juwayriyah B. Ayed, Touiesine Devora Baker, Julia Frances Bihler, Brianna Lynn Bray, Kayla B. Bresnahan, Nicole A. Bryan, Tyana L. Caraballo, Peter M. Charpen-tier, Jason Alexander Chartier, Julian Colon, Chase R. Davis, Alison Emily Deska, Diana Eveline Divnich, Joselin Marie Dominguez, Christopher Bryan Dunlap, Jordan K. Dunphy, Celest Rose Dzija, Marek Filip, Orlando Fuentes, Shadae Jasmine Grant, Kimberlee Anna Harrington, Muhammad Hatib Sr.  
Danielle L. Hines, Brittany Rose

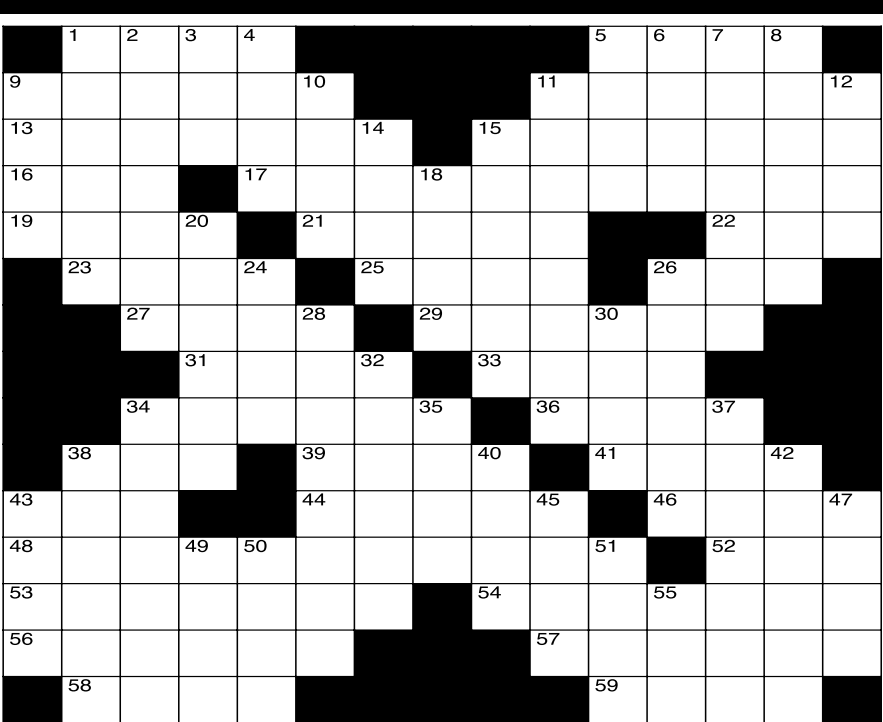
Houghton, Vanessa J. James, Weronika Julia Jaworski, Amanda Lena Jones, Edwin Wekesa Juma, Julia Muzinga Kampew, Andrew Karpolyuk, Piotr P. Koziol, Taylor J. Labonte, Melissa C. Lambert, Benjamin Lee Lawlor, Miranda K. Lebel, Adam S. Lee, Robert R. Machia, Rosario Angelo Maiorano Jr.

Hailey E. Mayotte, Alicja Maziarz, Matthew Mark McCracken, Allison Marie Merrill, Gina Marie Mitchell, Daniel Vadim Mogan, Allen Thomas Molekunnel, Michael Molina-Duque, Yajaira Moulton, Nicholas Li Murphy, Coumba Niang, Yeriles Ivette Ortiz Arbelo, Ivelisse Ortiz-Greene, Jinelsis Ortiz-Vega, Gabriel Aivan Pagan, Nikita S. Patel, Emma-Lee Pickett, Alexis MacKenzie Rattelle, Tristan T. Rawana, Christian D. Reid, Lexus Rivera, Benjamin Wayne Roberts, Mary Robeyko, Amanda M. Santerre, Samantha Marie Spagnoli, Sarah C. Taylor, Anastasiya V. Telelyuyeva, Kayla A. Tompkins, Wilfredo Torres, Justine Clariece Trox-ell, Chloe Marie Valencia, Jose G. Val-entin, Christine Grace Wanjiru, Gregory P. Warzybok, Madison Jane Wolohan, Maya Nergiss Younes, Angelis Marie Zapata.

Tuesday yoga at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging will be offering Zoom Yoga on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.  
Caitlin Lavin, Certified Yoga In-

structor, will be leading classes. These classes are free and the Zoom links are available on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page or by calling (413) 534-3698.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Composed
- 5. Lesotho currency
- 9. Ethnic group associated with Hungarians
- 11. Gains knowledge of
- 13. Gradual destruction
- 15. Purchase
- 16. Pharaoh of lower Egypt
- 17. Where you’re going
- 19. The 6th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 21. Fishing net
- 22. Midway between south and southeast
- 23. A way to sort
- 25. C C C
- 26. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
- 27. Discount
- 29. Consumes tobacco
- 31. A way to run

- 33. Popular musical awards show
- 34. Pertains to the male sexual organ
- 36. Supplements with difficulty
- 38. Green veggie
- 39. Deep-bodied freshwater fish
- 41. Holy fire
- 43. Usually has a lid
- 44. Being of use or service
- 46. Have a yen for
- 48. Unknowingness
- 52. Dry white wine drink
- 53. Unwinds
- 54. Traveling by sea
- 56. Outdoor entertaining areas
- 57. Stringed instruments
- 58. \_\_\_ Redgrave, actress

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Progressive decay of a bone or tooth
- 2. Burrowing rodents
- 3. French/Belgian river
- 4. A professional cleaner
- 5. A Russian river
- 6. Kiln
- 7. True statements
- 8. Most private
- 9. French city
- 10. Masses of fish eggs
- 11. Apart from others
- 12. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 14. Nanosecond
- 15. Film
- 18. Men’s fashion accessories
- 20. Flowering shrub
- 24. North Carolina university

- 26. Former monetary unit of Spain
- 28. Foodies
- 30. New Zealand parrot
- 32. Makes very happy
- 34. A payment required for not fulfilling a contract
- 35. Emerald Isle
- 37. The act of terminating someone’s employment
- 38. Gland in some mammals
- 40. Commoner
- 42. Large animals
- 43. Belch
- 45. Employee stock ownership plan
- 47. Work units
- 49. Wagon
- 50. Nerve fiber
- 51. Proclaimed
- 55. Japanese delicacy



## EDITORIAL

# Combating cabin fever, inside and out

Winters in New England can seem very long in the best of years. But as COVID-19 remains with us after almost a year, both this past fall and now deep into a wintry February, it may seem even longer than normal.

Punxsutawney Phil, the ever-popular Pennsylvania groundhog removed from his burrow each year to prognosticate about how many more weeks of winter we'll see before spring makes its anxiously-awaited appearance, made his annual visit above ground on Feb. 2. Unfortunately, he saw his shadow and determined there will be six weeks more of winter, which seems fitting enough based on the recent snowstorms and cold temps.

Luckily, Massachusetts' "famous" groundhog, Ms. G, the official state groundhog of our state, also made her annual appearance on Feb. 2. She did not see her shadow and so predicted an early spring. How early we don't yet know. She lives at the Massachusetts Audubon education center, Drumlin Farm, in Lincoln.

It remains to be seen if either forecast is accurate. In the Holyoke area, at least, skunks are already on the move again, a sure sign spring is headed our way. Of course, the Paper City is usually a little warmer than many other Western Mass. locations, so who knows?

Whether Phil's or Mrs. G's forecasting proves true, we are all getting at least a touch of cabin fever, and there's certainly stronger feelings of restlessness and boredom running through us all and our friends and family.

So, what to do? Considering our very recent snow, one can choose to educate oneself and go hiking – but if you're new to the activity, make sure to learn about the right clothing to wear based on temperatures and planned activities.

If you haven't investigated doing so before, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are possible now that we have plenty of the white stuff.

And if you've never tried ice fishing and you're willing to take a ride, you can head to Russell, where the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures' ice fishing staff, with Craig Mannix, will be on hand to help. With over 30 years of ice fishing experience, Mannix and his team will be available to show even the most novice fisherman how to catch the big ones under the ice. For those folks without the proper ice fishing equipment, plenty of "pop-ups" and other tools necessary to successfully find fish will be available for use out on the frozen lake.

While at Woronoco Heights on Feb. 20, it's also possible to try blacksmithing with the help of a Forged in Fire contestant as well as snowshoeing and/or mountain biking, although COVID-19 safety restrictions require all to bring their own bike helmets. There will also be orienteering, escape challenges and scavenger hunt bingo as well as other activities. If Mother Nature cooperates with the right weather, there may be trips out to the Top O' The Hill Maple "sugar shack" where visitors are rewarded for their efforts with samples of their sweet, freshly boiled, maple syrup.

The events go on from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and it's \$10 a piece for everyone regardless of age.

But if the cold weather, snow and ice isn't your or your family's thing, there are plenty of indoor activities on Zoom or other video conferencing applications.

Area groups and libraries have worked hard to keep us all entertained – and with the ubiquity of Zoom, it's possible to enjoy programs you might not have considered participating in before from the comfort of your own living room.

Dreaming of gardening in the spring?

See **EDITORIAL** page 5

## GUEST COLUMN

# Fresh flower care and flowers for free

With St. Valentine's Day coming up this Sunday, my thoughts turn to flowers and chocolate. Flowers because I am who I am, and chocolate, because I am surely hoping hubby will provide ample quantities in a heart-shaped box! Anyway, back to the flowers..

Many folks will be graced with a bouquet of cut flowers in honor of this special holiday, and I have some tips up my sleeve to make sure you get longevity out of your gift. No matter how your flowers make it home, either in a sleeve or in a box, chances are they've been out of water for some time. Once stems start to seal up, water and nutrients won't be able to flow and their lifespan could be cut short. Therefore, the first thing you ought to do is recut them. Your goal is to have a clean cut, one that won't crush the flower's vascular system.

In fact, I've never understood advice that mentions smashing floral stems; don't do it! Use bypass clippers, or if you're comfortable, a sharp knife. Household scissors usually aren't sharp enough, since they are geared more for cutting paper or fabric. Most advice books recommend making your cut on a 45 degree angle to expose the most surface area possible to water. Another trick is to cut the flower stems under water—this process will prevent air bubbles from clogging the stems. I usually fill a clean sink or bucket, submerge the flower stems and cut 1 or 2" off the bottom. If you've ever had a rose with a bent head, that is an air bubble at work. Try re-cutting the stem under water and hopefully the bubble will be forced out.

As you move your flowers into a vase (make sure it's clean!), remove any leaves that you estimate will be under the water line. Waterlogged leaves will rot and make bacteria that can clog stems, shorten vase life and make quite a stench! Some flowers do better if most of their foliage is removed, the reason being that the leaves draw water away from the main stem, and therefore away from the

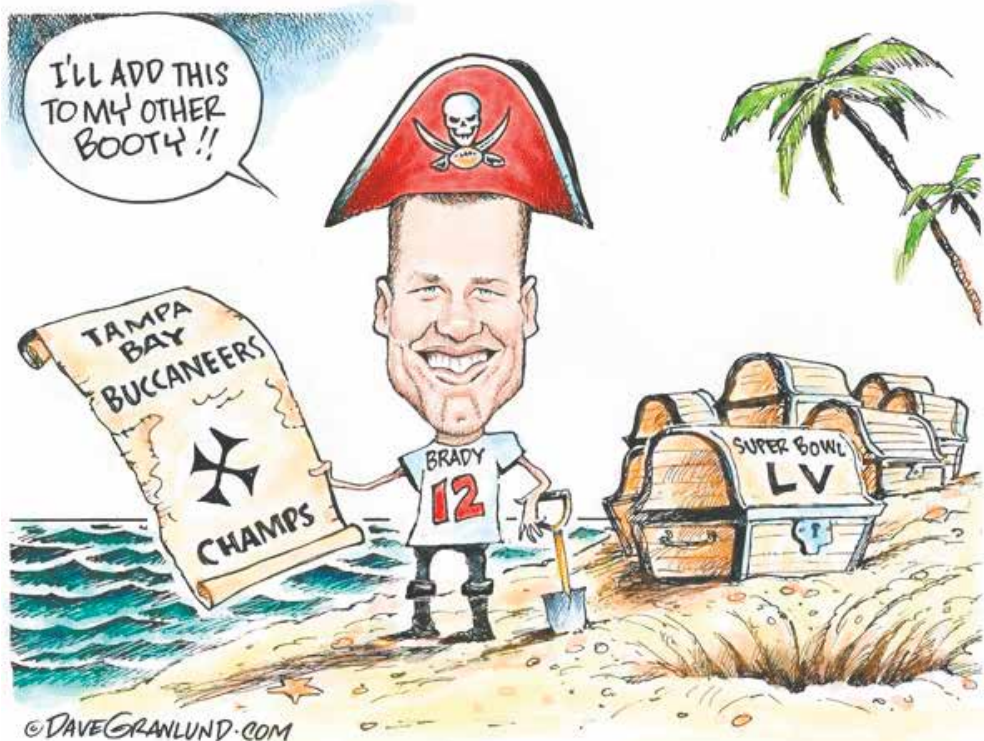
flower head. I generally snip off all the leaves of lilac, and remove all but the uppermost leaves of hydrangeas and zinnias. Usually a small packet of floral preservative is included along with your flowers. Using this in your vase of water will feed the blooms and encourage them to open to their fullest, vivid-color potential!

This year, Valentine's Day coincides with the start of February vacation. Why not snip some branches of your favorite spring shrubs for a neat experiment with the kids? Just think, when the bought flowers are long gone, you'll have some others waiting in the wings. The most common shrub to force in the vase is the forsythia; it can be done as early as late January or February, and right up until regular, outdoor bloom time.

Cut the branches on a day that temperatures are above freezing. The best for forcing are those that have many swollen buds. Bring them indoors and recut the stems just as you did for your cut flowers: under water and with a diagonal cut. The branches can then be put in a container or vase with a few inches of water in it.

I usually steer away from using floral preservative on flowering shrubs. Any side branches or buds that fall below the water line should be removed. Change the water every few days to prevent bacteria growth. If kept in a warm room, buds should break within a few weeks. Many other of our favorite spring-blooming trees and shrubs can also be forced into bloom. Try the same approach with redbud, honeysuckle, crabapple, magnolia and flowering almond, cherry and plum.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation

of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: **The Chicopee Register**,  
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
or email [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com).  
The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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Child and babysitting safety class

CHICOPEE – The Parks Department is offering a child and babysitting safety class for youth, ages 11-15 years old. The class will be held at the Chicopee Parks office 687 Front St. on Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Masks will be worn at all times. The cost is \$80 for residents and \$85 for non-residents. The class will cover topics such as playtime, behavior management, phone skills, common dos and don'ts, bathing, feeding, changing diapers and fire safety. Class space is limited. To register, go to [www.chicopeerec.com](http://www.chicopeerec.com)

Zoom Meditation with Michelle

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging offers “Meditation with Michelle” Via Zoom, Thursdays at 12 p.m. Are you feeling stressed? Do you want to learn how to relax? Join us for Meditation on Zoom. This class is led by Michelle Zemba LMT. This is an online class. The Zoom link will be shared on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center at (413) 534-3698 to provide your email address for the Zoom link to be sent to you. Please save the link as this will be the link you will use for each class.

Gentle exercise with Ryan via Zoom

CHICOPEE- The Council on Aging offers “Gentle Exercise with Ryan” Via Zoom, Mondays and Fridays at 12 p.m. This class focuses on functional movement & fun. This is an online class. Join Ryan every Monday and Friday at 12 p.m. The Zoom link is shared on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please contact RiverMills Center at (413)

Horizons for Homeless Children seeking volunteers

HOLYOKE/SPRINGFIELD – With more than 20,000 children under the age of six experiencing homelessness this past year, Horizons for Homeless Children has a high need for volunteers to play with homeless children in Holyoke and Springfield. “We have a need for volunteer Playspace Activity Leaders to provide two hours of healing play each week to homeless children in Holyoke and Springfield,” staff members said. Online trainings are scheduled for Sat., Feb. 27, from 9:30-11:30 a.m., or Tues., March 2, from 6-8 p.m.

Zoom Tai Chi with Michelle

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging offers “Tai Chi with Michelle” Via Zoom, Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. Experience the many slow and gentle benefits of Tai Chi Fit/Qigong. The class is led by Michelle Zemba LMT, Certified in Tai Chi/Qigong. This is an online class. The Zoom link will be shared on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center at (413) 534-3698 to provide your email address for the Zoom link to be sent to you. Please save the link as this will be the link you will use for each class.

EDITORIAL from page 4

The East Quabbin Land Trust, will host a book discussion on Feb. 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., on “Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conversation That Starts in Your Yard,” by Douglas Tallamy, a professor of entomology at the University of Delaware. He is also the

author of “Bringing Nature Home.” He will discuss how homeowners can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats. It’s free and people can email Jess Cusworth at the trust at [Jcusworth@eqlt.org](mailto:Jcusworth@eqlt.org) if they are interested, and she will send you the Zoom link.

The trust, the Trustees of the Reservation and Massachusetts Audubon all have outdoor and indoor activities, and libraries across the state have all kinds of online programs to enjoy, so take a walk through the World Wide Web and see what you can find to distract yourself until spring.



The Chicopee Water Pollution Control Facility on Medina Street is responsible for keeping Chicopee's water clean.



The Chicopee Water Pollution Control Facility on Medina Street is a complex operation that contributes to the safety and well-being of the city's residents.

WATER from page 1

is harmful to water quality, food resources, habitats and can reduce or eliminate oxygen in the water. Algae can also be harmful to humans; elevated levels of toxins and bacterial growth can sicken individuals who come in contact with polluted water or consume tainted fish. The future CWPCF study discussed on Feb. 2 will initiate a more extensive campaign to improve the facility. “I want you all to be aware and expect that the wastewater treat-

ment plant is going to need some repairs. We’ve known this for a few years now,” said Vieau. “We are looking into the most cost-effective ways to provide that service here in the city of Chicopee. One of our concerns is the nitrogen level going from the effluent into the river. This will help. This is a start in the right direction.” Chicopee residents are accustomed to paying wastewater bills, which allow the CWPCF to function and, in turn, offer the community clean and safe water. Inadequate access to clean water would immediately impact medical facil-

ities, schools and emergency services among other institutions and critical operations. Councilor-at-Large James Tillitson supported the city’s commitment to the cleanliness of its water supply, noting that upcoming purification efforts will be worthwhile. “This is the beginning of a long journey; there’s going to be a lot of cost to solve this nitrogen problem,” said Tillitson. “I’m very happy to take the grant because we’re going to be forced to do this anyways. We all have to face the reality that we’re being asked to reduce the amount of nitrogen flowing into the sound.”

Missing



Aiden Blanchard

Birth:	03/14/2009	Hair:	Brown
Missing:	02/05/2021	Eyes:	Blue
Race:	White	Height:	4'00"
Sex:	M	Weight:	100 lbs
Missing From:	Chicopee, MA		
	United States		
Age Missing:	11 yrs	Age Now:	11 yrs

Aiden was last seen on February 5, 2021. He was last seen wearing black over pants over black overalls, a black hoodie, a red vest, and black boots.



ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT  
The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
1-800-543-5878 (1-800-THE-LOST) OR  
Chicopee Police Department (Massachusetts) 1-413-594-1639

Aiden Blanchard, 11, was last seen near the icy waters of the Connecticut River.



Aiden Blanchard, 11, is believed to have been heading towards the boat launch at the end of Medina Street when he disappeared last Friday.

MISSING from page 1

ple occasions. The Chicopee River has been searched as well. In addition to divers and boats, drones from the State Police Air Wing are being utilized.



The search Aiden Blanchard was last seen approaching the boat ramp at the end of Medina Street, which offers a direct view of the stretch of highway that crosses the Connecticut River. high winds and heavy snowfall but has since resumed. No evidence of Blanchard has been discovered, but law enforcement agencies continue to survey the area. “The Chicopee Police Detective Bureau is following all leads and continues to be in contact with his family,” read a Feb. 9 post on the CPD’s Facebook page. Blanchard is five-feet tall and weighs approximately 100 pounds. He has brown hair, blue eyes and was last seen wearing a red ski jacket, black ski pants and black sneakers. Police believe that Blanchard was alone at the time of his disappearance, and no foul play is suspected at this time, although investigators are pursuing all leads. Anyone with pertinent information relating to Blanchard’s disappearance is encouraged to call 911 or Chicopee police at (413) 594-1639. This is not the first time the city of Chicopee has encountered the disappearance of a child on or along one of its bodies of water. The body of a missing 10-year-old boy was recovered from the Chicopee River on Dec. 31, 2019 after a four-day search. The body of that fifth-grade student at Sgt. Robert R. Litwin School was discovered by public safety workers in boats and by dive teams searching underwater. During the same 2019 incident, an 11-year-old boy from Pawtucket, R.I., a cousin of the Litwin School student, was discovered in the frigid Chicopee River and succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. Since November of 2020, seven Chicopee girls have gone missing; the incidents are unrelated to the Connecticut or Chicopee River. Most of the girls have since been accounted for, but Saray Ortiz, 16, has been missing since Jan. 26. Hayleigh Gonzalez, 14, ran away on Jan. 5 and was last seen in Springfield. Crystal Badillo, 15, ran away on Nov. 11, 2020 and was last seen in the area of St. James Avenue in Springfield. Individuals with any information pertaining to Blanchard, Ortiz, Gonzalez or Badillo are urged to contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which can be reached at 1-800-THE-LOST.



# New EMT's graduate from American Medical Response

*They earned while they learned are now ready for full-time service*

By Jonah Snowden  
jsnowden@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD – Despite the cold, blustery weather, staff of American Medical Response, public officials, and family and friends attended an in-person graduation for 14 new Emergency Medical Technicians, including a Ludlow resident, at the Eastfield Mall on Jan. 28.

Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, Chairman of the EMS Commission, Dr. John Santoro, and other officials were present to support the new graduates, who enrolled in AMR's Earn While You Learn Program.

Program Director for the EMT and Paramedic Programs for AMR Springfield, Emily Chandler, said the students were impressive from the start, specifically during their interviews.

"Their dedication to the program has



Regional Director of American Medical Response Patrick Pickering welcomed a new class of EMTs to the area.

been unwavering, despite being stared down by a pandemic," said Chandler.

"These students were hungry for knowledge. They were excited for each step of the way as they learned to become an EMT. They showed the perseverance and dedication needed to become not just an EMT, but an exceptional EMT."

One of the graduates was Ludlow resident Coty Guyette, who was more than excited and grateful to achieve this accomplishment. Guyette said he pursued this opportunity in mid-August because he felt the need to help as many people as he can during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I came across AMR and did a little bit of research and ended up joining the class," Guyette said.

"It was definitely a great way of just being able to achieve a role like this where we can give hope in the community without going through four years of med school or nursing school."

Guyette said because of the condensed nature of the academic aspect of the program, it requires a full commitment. Anyone considering following in his footsteps should be prepared for hours of intense study, he said.



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY JONAH SNOWDEN

On Jan. 28, 14 graduates (with one absent) received their certificates and officially became Emergency Medical Technicians.

"I can't express how thick that book is," Guyette said of the text.

"You're learning something that you would typically learn in a full year within three months, so it's just a lot of dedication, a lot of studying, and you really have to have your heart in it to be successful."

Guyette is ready to help those in need.

"I'm excited to jump in," he said.

"This is going to be a part-time job for me, so this is going to be my fun job. It'll be great to just get in and start helping, especially with this pandemic. It got a little slow in the summer and it's starting to kind of pick up again, so it's exciting to be able to do something helpful."

Other graduates are:

- Raulisha Agramonte – Springfield
- Milena Colon – Springfield
- Amber Deluca – Springfield
- Zachary Fontana – Howe – Vernon, Conn.

- Hanna Kopeck, Chicopee
- Dylan Labonte - Chicopee
- Celine Lopes – Springfield
- Sara Miranda – Springfield
- Rambo Ngo – Springfield
- Jenny Ninh – Springfield
- Justin Perez – Springfield
- Theodore Perry – Springfield
- Scarlett Villalobos – Springfield

The Earn While You Learn program is designed to ease the transition for those wanting to become EMS professionals. It

allows trainees to be paid as full-time employees while taking the necessary certification courses to become EMTs.

Diversity and inclusion are major underpinnings of the program. Among the 14 new graduates, 57% are women and 57% people of color.

"On the frontlines of the efforts in the fight against COVID-19 are AMR's EMTs and paramedics, who are not only testing and vaccinating, but also responding within our communities 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," said AMR Northeast Regional Director Patrick Pickering.

"We are thrilled to announce the graduation of another Earn While You Learn class of outstanding EMTs here in the City of Springfield. This group of compassionate, caring people are now trained medical professionals, helping our community by saving lives in such a historically difficult time."

Sarno welcomes the help.

"I am very appreciative of AMR's continued belief and investment in our Springfield, even as we continue to work together to defeat this COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic," he said.

"AMR has been great to work with. The Earn While You Learn Program continues to be what my administration is all about – creating more new jobs for our residents and their families. This very successful program is designed to make an easier transition for those wanting to become an EMS professional."



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Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

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# Sports

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## MIAA

### Football season vote reconsidered

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — The actual composition of the high school football season is back up in the air after the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association voted to reconsider its decision on a format for the 2021-2022 season.

Just a few weeks after agreeing on a format that would be used this fall, the MIAA Board of Directors backtracked on the vote, voting overwhelming in favor in a special meeting last Thursday morning to reconsider its decision.

This fall is set to be the first under the new statewide tournament format that was voted into effect in early 2020. Unfortunately, Western Massachusetts schools did not have the opportunity to have one final sectional tournament before the new tournament format takes effect.

The original vote was to have a nine-week season beginning Labor Day weekend and going to the first week of November. There would then be eight qualifying teams per Division to participate in a statewide tournament. There are currently scheduled to be eight divisions in high school football though their exact composition has not been determined. Most other high school sports will be divided into five divisions in order to level the competition throughout the state.

One other proposal presented a few weeks back was to have an eight-week qualifying campaign, much similar to the existing format. The only difference being the fact the playoffs will be a state tournament instead of a four-team sectional, followed by state semifinals. The state finals would still be scheduled to take place after Thanksgiving, and Thanksgiving holiday matchups could still be preserved.

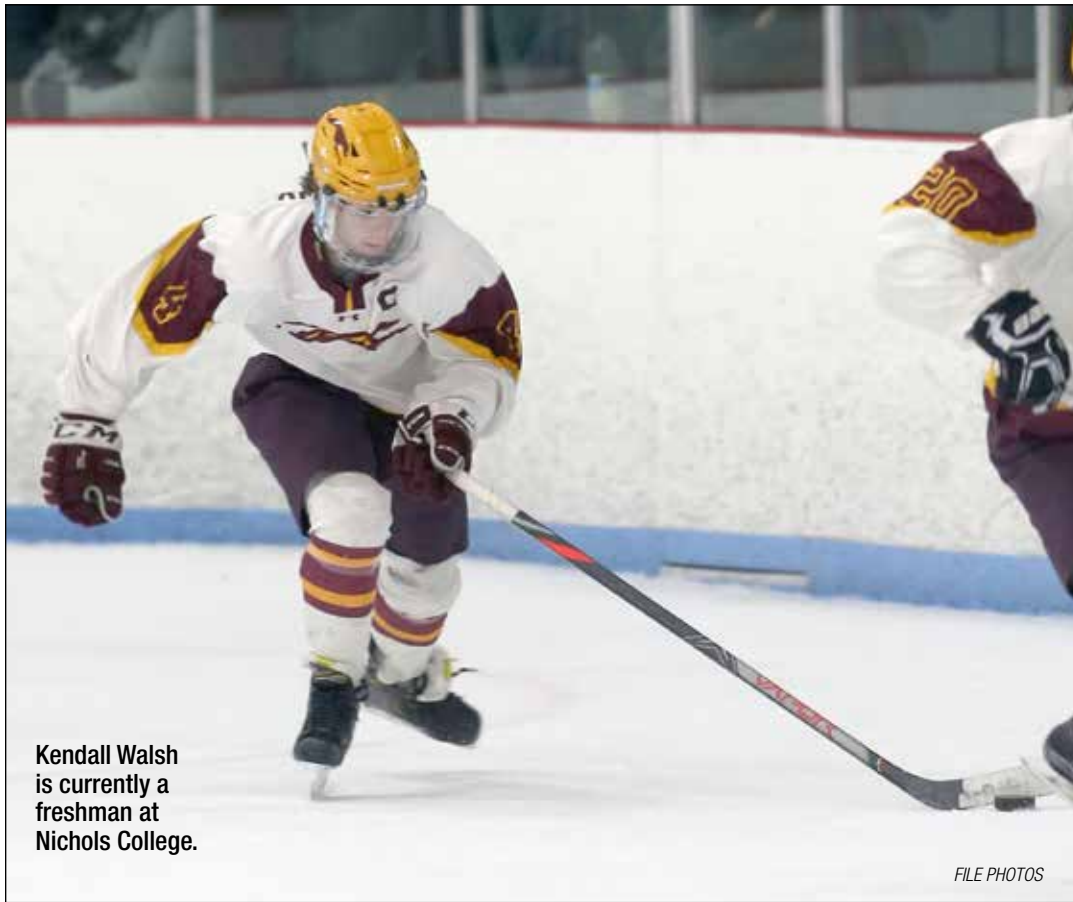
One thing that would change are the consolation games that occurred among non-playoff teams. The consolation games were determined by a committee in the MIAA for Weeks 9 and 10 as a way to bridge the gap for teams between the eight-week qualifying season and Thanksgiving.

Now, the MIAA is not planning to specifically come up with matchups, but one area athletic director, Agawam's David Stratton, said a local organization, like the PVIAC, could determine non-playoff games based on who is not involved in the tournament.

FOOTBALL | page 8

## RECOGNITION

### Walsh receives Bruins-MIAA Sportsmanship award



Kendall Walsh is currently a freshman at Nichols College.

FILE PHOTOS

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—Kendall Walsh IV, a recent Chicopee High School graduate, was one of the two high school hockey players from Western Massachusetts to receive the annual Bruins-MIAA Sportsmanship Award.

"A couple of Chicopee High School hockey players have been selected for the sportsmanship award in the past," said Walsh during a recent zoom interview. "It feels very nice to add my name to that

list and I take a lot of pride in being selected for this award."

Walsh, a freshman at Nichols College in Dudley, was nominated for the Bruins-MIAA Sportsmanship Award by Chicopee hockey coach Al Styckiewicz.

"Kendall's performance as a Chicopee hockey player was always professional and hard-working," Styckiewicz said. "He was a captain of the hockey team and led through example on and off the ice. I demand sportsmanship from my players, and it was an easy sell for Kendall because he was bred

with it. Whether it was his teammates or the opposing team he always showed a lot of respect."

According to the Pacers head coach, Walsh only drew two penalties from the referees during his senior season.

"I believe in Kendall's senior year he only received two penalties," Styckiewicz said. "In all four years of his high school career, he received less than 10 penalties. That's from memory, so it's probably a lot less."

The Sportsmanship Award recipients would normally be honored during a Bruins home game in front of a sellout crowd



Kendall Walsh was a recent recipient of the Bruins-MIAA Sportsmanship award.



Kendall Walsh was one of two players in the region to receive the award.

at the TD Garden. This year's award ceremony was held virtually on zoom because of COVID-19. Bruins President Cam Neeley did present the awards to the recipients.

The Chicopee hockey team has also won a total of six state sportsmanship awards.

"My hockey team won the team sportsmanship award

WALSH | page 8

## RECOGNITION

### Challenge Cup set to finally debut

REGION — After a one-year delay, The New England Late Model Challenge Cup (NELMCC) is finally debuting in 2021 — and it will be even bigger than originally planned. American-Canadian Tour (ACT) officials confirmed today that nine tracks have signed up for the first season of the series that will pit weekly Late Model racers from across the region in a summer-long battle for pride, glory, and some serious prize money.

The inaugural Challenge Cup was originally slated for the 2020 season before being pushed back a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The basic format remains the same, with registered drivers taking their 10 best eligible finishes at participating tracks towards the season-long point standings.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alan Ward is one racer who will be trying to compete in the Late Model Challenge Cup this year.

However, the scope of the program has grown tremendously during the one-year hiatus. Nine tracks from four New England states have signed up, nearly double the amount that

were originally registered for 2020.

The increase in tracks also means an increase in the season-ending awards. A guaranteed minimum point fund of

\$14,000 has been posted for the Challenge Cup. The \$100 registration fee for each driver will also be added to the point fund in full. For example, if 40 drivers sign up for the series, another \$4,000 would be added to the point fund for a total of \$18,000.

Should registration be on pace with the 2020 pre-pandemic numbers, the total point fund could exceed \$20,000. A minimum prize of \$3,000 goes to the overall winner. At least the top-10 drivers in the final standings will receive payouts.

Several big contingency and raffle awards have been posted, adding even more value to the program for racer. A Port City Chassis by Crazy Horse Racing will be raffled off at sea-

RACING | page 8



Full slate of Mass Golf championships return this season

NORTON – Mass Golf is excited to announce the return of a full schedule for Championships and Women’s Championships during the 2021 season. While Mass Golf was able to conduct a majority of its events and qualifiers in 2020, this year’s slate will also include the return of events canceled last year due to COVID-19, such as the Massachusetts Open.

According to Kevin Eldridge, Mass Golf’s Director of Rules and Competitions, about 60 championship events, including 18-hole qualifying rounds, are being scheduled, and they will take place at 63 different Mass Golf Member Clubs. In total, more than 4,600 registrations are expected. “This year’s lineup of championship events and qualifiers wouldn’t have been possible without the support and dedication of all our host clubs,” Eldridge said.

“As we enter into what we plan to be a full season of Mass Golf events, we remain committed to maintaining the level of care and attention put towards keeping our competitors, volunteers, host club personnel, and staff safe,” said Jesse Menachem, Mass Golf Executive Director/CEO. “Statewide and nationally, golf was recognized as a safe recreational activity during times of great restriction and we are confident that we will keep this positive momentum surrounding the sport going into the 2021 season.”

Online registrations for 2021 Mass Golf events will begin in early March. Additional details surrounding the new registration platform and the registration open dates will be provided in the coming weeks.

Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quilthunter@comcast.net.

Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

WALSH from page 7

when I was a junior,” Walsh said. “The captains received the award before Pope Francis faced B.C. High in the state finals at the TD Garden. It was a cool experience for us.”

Walsh, who’s a center, started playing hockey for the Pioneer Valley Lightening when he was eight years old. The Lightening played their games at Fitzpatrick Arena in Holyoke, which is also Chicopee Comp’s home rink.

He joined the Chicopee High hockey team as a freshman. The Pacers play their home games at Smead Arena, which is located next to Central High School in Springfield.

“I don’t think I could’ve had a better experience playing high school hockey than I did,” Walsh said. “I will probably never forget the last four years. I’ve met a lot of lifelong friends and I’m still close with all of my coaches.”

Walsh gave his thoughts about playing hockey for coach Styckiewicz, who he met for the first time on the first day of practice as a freshman.

“Coach Al is an old school hockey coach, but he definitely has a lot of knowledge about the game,” he said. “He has had some players who might not have very much talent, but he was able to turn them into something special. He’s definitely someone that I’ll never forget.”

There were eleven seniors on the Pacers hockey team when Walsh was a freshman. Coach Styckiewicz

called the younger players on the hockey team by their uniform numbers.

“Because there were eleven seniors on the team that year, coach Al would call all of the freshmen players by their numbers,” Walsh said. “By the time we were juniors, he knew us by name. He became very close with us.”

Walsh wore the No. 4 jersey during his high school hockey career.

“I wore number 4 because my dad, my grandfather, my great grandfather, and I all share the same name,” Walsh said. “All four of us are named Kendall Jerome Walsh. Being able to wear No. 4 was awesome. My parents have always given me a lot of support and I always strive to make them proud of me.”

The Chicopee hockey team finished the 2017 regular season with an impressive 18-1-1 record. After earning a quarterfinal bye as the top-seeded team in the Western Mass. Division 3A tournament, the Pacers defeated Belchertown by five goals in the semifinals. They then lost a heartbreaker to third-seeded South Hadley, 3-2 in overtime in the Western Mass. finals, which was held at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

“I didn’t play in the Western Mass. finals as a freshman,” Walsh said. “It was definitely the best season that we had while I was a member of the hockey team. It was just a great experience just being a small part of it.”

The Pacers (12-3-5) were also

the top-seeded team in the postseason tournament the following year. They were upset by fifth-seeded Belchertown in semifinals at Olympia.

When Walsh was a junior, he was named as an assistant captain by coach Styckiewicz.

Chicopee (9-8-3) lost to Belchertown in the quarterfinals that season.

The Pacers, who went 9-5-7 last year, lost to South Hadley in the quarterfinals.

Overall, Walsh won a total of 48 regular season games during his outstanding high school hockey career.

Walsh’s first line mates during his senior season were Trevor Poirier, who was also a senior, and freshman Tyler Bielecki.

“Trevor and I were named captains as seniors,” Walsh said. “It was a lot of fun being a team leader.”

One of the Pacers biggest games during the regular season is against cross-town rival Chicopee Comp.

“When I was a junior, we lost to Comp in overtime in the Winter Classic, which was our first loss to them in a long time,” Walsh said. “Because Comp is in the same town, we know all of their players very well. We played different sports with those guys growing up. You always want to beat them in every game, but it’s a friendly rivalry.”

While hockey has always been his favorite sport, Walsh was a three-year member of the Pacers golf team and played lacrosse for one season.

	C	A	L	M					L	O	T	I			
M	A	G	Y	A	R				L	E	A	R	N	S	
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Chicopee Register  
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

FOOTBALL from page 7

“If we did non-playoff games, it would have to be done on a local level,” said Stratton.

Following the reconsideration vote, there was a motion for the nine-week season again, but it was defeated.

Now, the exact regular season format will have to wait until a future meeting as the meeting concluded without a new vote on how many weeks the regular season will be.

In Western Massachusetts, teams will still be playing in competitive conferences, which usually consist of five to seven teams. Depending on whether the regular season will be eight or nine weeks, teams would have to pick up independent games against non-conference teams.

Football teams will have an opportunity to play again in the Fall 2 season, set for next month. However, there will be no playoffs for the Fall 2 season.

RACING from page 7

son’s end. To qualify for the chassis raffle, drivers must register by the deadline and attempt to qualify for at least 10 point-counting events.

ARBodies and Five Star Bodies are each awarding a \$500 product certificate. Drivers who finish in the overall top-10 and have declared they are running an AR or Five Star body will be eligible for these raffles.

Drivers who register by the early-entry deadline of March 1 will also be entered into a Hoosier Tire raffle. Two randomly chosen entrants each receive two free ACT Late Model tires from Hoosier. ACT will also honor the tire awards of the 2020 pre-pandemic raffle winners if they register for this year’s Challenge Cup.

“This program is a huge step forward for weekly Late Model racing in New England,” ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. “The Challenge Cup was one of the things we were most excited about in 2020 before the pandemic. Now, with nearly twice as many tracks on board plus some great contingency partners, it’s going to be even bigger for teams and fans.”

“Weekly racers are the backbone of the sport, and it’s important to reward them for their efforts,” Michaud went on. “We’ve come up with a program that does so and which we think will boost car counts and action throughout the region.”

Four tracks from the original 2020 slate will return for the 2021 debut: Barre, VT’s Thunder Road Speedbowl; North Woodstock, NH’s White Mountain Motorsports Park; Connecticut’s Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park; and Massachusetts’ Seekonk Speedway.

Five other tracks have joined the Challenge Cup. Connecticut’s New London-Waterford Speedbowl will be the second Connecticut track. Furthermore, four tracks from the New Hampshire Short Track Racing Association (NHSTRA) have signed up: Monadnock Speedway, Lee USA Speedway, Hudson Speedway, and Claremont Speedway.

Any competitor at the four NHSTRA tracks must use the ACT Late Model rules option the organization has introduced for the 2021 season. In other words, cars need to be 100% ACT legal for drivers to earn Challenge Cup points.

All weekly Late Model features at participating tracks will be eligible for the Challenge Cup. Registered drivers can earn Challenge Cup points at any of the nine tracks. For example, a Thunder Road Late Model regular can also earn points at White Mountain, and a Thompson Speedway regular can also earn points at New London-Waterford Speedbowl or Monadnock Speedway.

A driver’s 10 best performances across all tracks count towards their NELMCC total. Points will be awarded based on finishing position, car count, and cars passed. The full system is available at [www.acttour.com/NELMCC](http://www.acttour.com/NELMCC).

Participating tracks are responsible for reporting results to the ACT offices. ACT Late Model Tour events and “open events” at these tracks are not eligible for Challenge Cup points.

To register for the New England Late Model Challenge Cup, drivers must submit the entry form along with a \$100 registration fee by Monday, April 5. Entries postmarked by Monday, March 1 will be eligible for the Hoosier tire drawing. The entry form and point system outline are available at [www.acttour.com/NELMCC](http://www.acttour.com/NELMCC) and on participating track websites. For more information, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, [media@acttour.com](mailto:media@acttour.com), or visit [www.acttour.com](http://www.acttour.com). You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.



# PUBLIC NOTICES

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:30 PM\*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application from Residential to IPUD-1 for 57.46 acres of property located at 0 Fuller Rd. (Assessor Map 316, Parcel 2 for the purpose of Industrial Park development. Applicant – Westover Metropolitan Development Corp., Michael W. Bolton, 255 Padgett St., Chicopee, MA 01022.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

**\*COVID-19:** Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the February 24, 2021 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov) by February 22, 2021. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on the Chicopee TV website Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or <https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv>.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 02/05, 02/12/2021

Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

**\*COVID-19:** Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the February 24, 2021 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov) by February 22, 2021. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on the Chicopee TV website Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or <https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv>.

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## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:30 PM\*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-67G for the purpose of exercising the regulations of the Mill Conversion and Commercial Overlay District in connection with the redevelopment of the below described property and pursuant to Chapter 275-67H of the Ordinance, the Applicant respectfully requests that the City Council waive the following requirements: (1) Requirement that Applicant provide a complete traffic impact study in connection with this application. (2) Requirement that the Applicant provide a special features plan in connection with this application. Location – 10 Southwick St. Applicant – Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., Stephen Huntley, 35 Mt. Carmel Ave., Chicopee, MA 01013.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

**\*COVID-19:** Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the February 24, 2021 Zoning Committee

hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov) by February 22, 2021. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on the Chicopee TV website Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or <https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv>.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 02/05, 02/12/2021

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20P1719EA Estate of: Janice M Charter Date of Death: 07/22/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for S/A - **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **James D Wright of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **James D Wright of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/22/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION  
UNDER THE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE**

**CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 03, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
02/12/2021

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD15P1266EA  
Estate of:  
Rebecca Lynn Cross  
Also known as:  
Rebecca Lynn Garton,  
Rebecca L Garton, Rebecca  
L Cross  
Date of Death: 06/03/2015  
CITATION ON GENERAL  
PROBATE PETITION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition has been filed by: **Arthur E Cross** of Ludlow, MA requesting Enter an order authorizing the Petitioner to distribute the portion of the recent wrongful death settlement which Morghan B. Cross is entitled to receive to Lois E. Cross as the UTMA custodian of the benefit of said minor.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on March 1, 2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 01, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
James R. Loughman, Esq.  
Donovan O'Connor & Dodig, LLP  
1330 Mass MoCA Way  
North Adams, MA 01247  
02/12/2021

**SALE OF  
MOTOR VEHICLES  
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**  
Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on February 12, 2021 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.  
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Leeds, MA 01053  
2004 Honda Accord  
Vin: 1HGCM56374A022157  
Michael Thomas  
64 Washington Rd  
Brimfield, MA 01010  
2005 Honda Odyssey  
Vin: 5FNRL38635B010409  
Carmen Sanchez Quinones  
15 Girard Ave  
Springfield, MA 01109  
2006 Jeep Commander  
Vin: 1J8HG58206C139613  
Robert Nelson  
240 Beacon St  
Hartford, CT 06105  
2006 Mitsubishi Lancer  
Vin: JA3AJ26E66U001458  
Edward Alvarez  
32 Marquette St  
Springfield, MA 01104  
2006 Toyota Corolla  
Vin: 1NXBR32E66Z652384  
Jorge L Blancomelendez  
62 Cross St  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
2010 Ford Fusion  
Vin: 3FAHP0HA1AR407909  
Andrea Kane  
3 Hill Place  
West Springfield, MA 01089  
2011 Chevrolet Equinox  
Vin: 2CNFLCEC9B6224234  
Erika Saurez  
40 Riverview Homes  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
2014 Nissan Sentra  
Vin: 3N1AB7AP1EY261589  
Willam Ramos  
2250 Sw 69Th Ave  
Miami, FL 33101  
2016 Ford Fusion  
Vin: 3FA6P0K99GR390355  
Jason Casella  
6 Beekman Pl  
Agawam, MA 01001  
2018 Acura TLX  
Vin: 19UUB1F31JA008687  
Hem Pun  
40 Eastern Ave  
Manchester, NH 03104  
2018 Kia Optima  
Vin: 5XXGU4L34JG187954  
Jimmy Smith  
289 Iron Mine Rd  
Wallace, NC 28466  
01/29, 02/05, 02/12/2021

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD21P0138EA  
Estate of:  
Eric Jason Wolcheck  
Also known as:  
Eric J Wolcheck  
Date of Death: 12/17/2012  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment**

has been filed by **Jane S Wolcheck** of Indian Orchard, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Jane S Wolcheck** of Indian Orchard, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/02/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION  
UNDER THE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE  
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 26, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
02/12/2021

**Please check  
the accuracy of  
your legal notice  
prior to submission (i.e., date,  
time, spelling).  
Also, be sure  
the requested  
publication date  
coincides with  
the purpose of the  
notice, or as the  
law demands.  
Thank you.**

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

*Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon,  
Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

**visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)**



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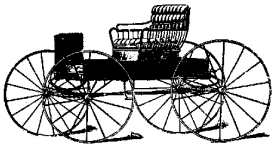
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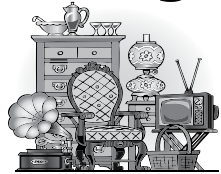
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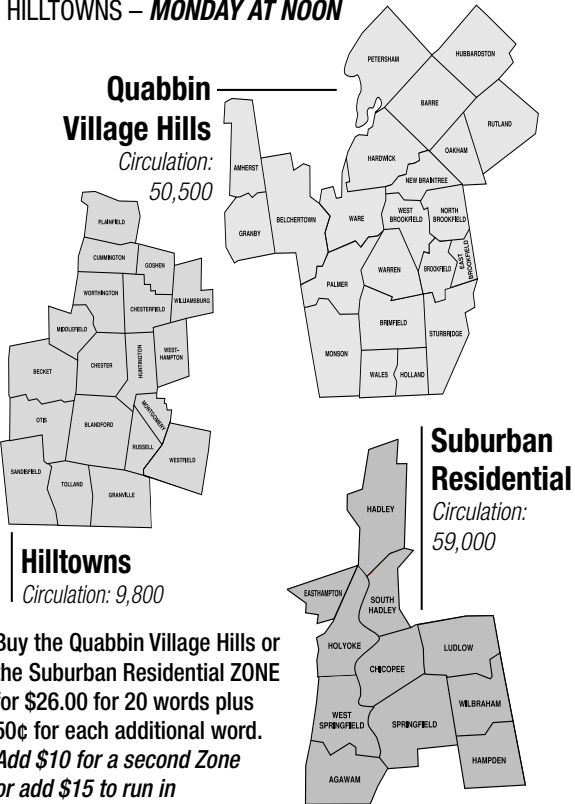
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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

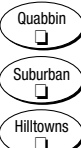
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tion of doses for us to start distributing vaccinations at the proposed site. It's only a matter of time, so patience is critical," said Vieau.

The city is also hoping to use the PrepMod contract to use software to process and register vaccinations and appointments. If a vaccination site is approved in Chicopee, it will be up and running within two weeks, after doses are allocated and training is completed.

On Feb. 10, the city reported 376 active cases of COVID-19; 473 active cases had been reported only eight days prior. On Feb. 9, only 10 new cases were reported.

As of Wednesday evening, 2,652 Chicopee residents have recovered from the novel coronavirus while 23 have lost their lives.

The downward trend in cases is a reason to be encouraged, but proper protocols must still be adhered to, even once vaccinated.

"The vaccination can stop the severity of the disease but will not stop the spread of the virus," said Vieau. "It takes both doses and another four weeks to develop antibodies to fight off an infection. Please remain patient, as we continue to

fight this virus and any variant strains that develop."

The state of Massachusetts reported a total of 52,112 open cases of COVID-19 on Feb. 10. To put the statistic in perspective, Chicopee's entire population was listed at 54,530 last year.

It cannot be overstated that the general population must be patient while awaiting vaccinations. Despite the uncertainty, Vieau is confident that residents will receive their doses in due time.

"Once more doses and locations are approved and provided, we will see an increase in the number of individuals vaccinated and moving forward through the phases will be much quicker," said Vieau.

As COVID-19 case totals rise, it's apparent the pandemic is not through yet. Treatments are improving and protocols are advancing, although new strains are appearing.

The best way to combat a new strain is to continue social distancing, wearing masks and using common sense.

"As we get closer to vaccinating a majority of our population and controlling the spread of the virus and the variants, we must remain vigilant in following the CDC guidelines, so that a new variant does not develop and defeat the progress we have made," said Vieau.

## RiverMills Center launches tablet lending program

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging has launched a tablet lending program for Chicopee seniors ages 55 and older who have internet access, but do not have an updated device to get on the internet successfully.

These tablets can be used to get online, play games, or join Zoom programming. This program will allow seniors to sign out a device for up to three weeks at a time. The tablets will also have charging and typing accessories, as well as a basic user guide.

Anyone interested in borrowing a tablet can contact Program Technician Jona Ruiz at (413) 534-3698 ext.104.

## RiverMills Center transportation services for seniors

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging's Transportation Department is doing emergency rides to supermarkets, pharmacies and doctor's appointments during COVID-19, for Chicopee seniors 60 and older.

Transportation service is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., for Chicopee's older adults. For reservations, please call (413) 536-5733.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chicopee COA follows all CDC Safety Standards and adheres to all mandates from the City and State of Massachusetts.

A \$10,000 grant from WestMass ElderCare has allowed the senior center to expand its transportation offerings.

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## Administration authorizes caregiver to get vaccinated with 75+ resident at mass vax sites

BOSTON – On Feb. 10, the Baker-Polito Administration announced two new mass vaccination sites will open in Natick and Dartmouth. On Thursday, 74,000 appointments will be posted online for mass vaccination sites and pharmacies at locations statewide. Approximately 30,000 additional appointments will be posted over the course of the week at pharmacies-totaling over 100,000 new appointments this week for mass vaccination sites and pharmacies.

The administration also announced that individuals who accompany someone age 75 or older to get a vaccine at a mass vaccination site may also schedule and receive their own vaccination on the same day.

Natick Mass Vaccination Site:

An additional mass vaccination site is scheduled to open on Feb. 22 at the Natick Mall, with LabCorp as the provider.

This site will begin administering 500 doses per day, then increasing over the course of several weeks to administering 3,000 doses daily. All eligible residents will be able to use this site.

Eligible residents can begin booking appointments for the Natick site as of Feb. 18. For appointment booking, visit [mass.gov/covidvaccine](http://mass.gov/covidvaccine).

Dartmouth Mass Vaccination Site:

An additional mass vaccination site is scheduled to open on Feb. 24 at Circuit City, with Curative as the provider.

This site will begin administering 500 doses per day, then increasing over the course of several weeks to administering over 2,000 doses daily. All eligible residents will be able to use this site.

Eligible residents can begin booking appointments for the Dartmouth site on February 18th. For appointment booking, visit [mass.gov/covidvaccine](http://mass.gov/covidvaccine).

New appointments at mass vaccination sites and pharmacies:

The Administration continues to build the Commonwealth's vaccination infrastructure, and will add 30 new retail pharmacy sites and two additional mass vaccination sites. There are currently more than 130 vaccination sites in Massachusetts.

As of Feb. 11, more than 53,000 appointments were posted online for mass vaccination sites for Springfield, Danvers, Foxborough (Gillette Stadium) and Boston (Fenway Park). Eligible individuals should visit [mass.gov/covidvaccine](http://mass.gov/covidvaccine) for details on how to book.

Over 50,000 pharmacy appointments will be posted online by the end of the week, and 21,000 of these appointments are at new stores and went live as of Feb. 11. The 50,000 includes:

CVS Health: 8,064 appointments were posted this week, with an additional 21,000 appointments going live Feb. 11, and another 3,000 appointments being posted daily on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Walgreens: 7,620 appointments this week (over 1,000 released each day)

Topco (Wegmans, Big Y, Price Chopper): 3,100 appointments this week

Retail Business Services (Stop and Shop, Hannaford): 2,000 appointments this week

Caregiver attestation for mass vaccination sites:

Effective Feb. 11 at mass vaccination sites, an individual who is accompanying a person age 75 or older to get the vaccine may schedule their own appointment to be vaccinated on the same day.

A caregiver must schedule their own appointment online for the same day and location as the 75 or older resident. Only one caregiver may accompany a 75 or older resident.

Mass vaccination locations will make every effort to take both individuals together to minimize wait time, even if the appointment times are not identical.

Directions to schedule two appointments (for a 75+ resident and a caregiver):

Individuals can go to [mass.gov/covidvaccine](http://mass.gov/covidvaccine) and schedule two separate appointments at either the same time or adjacent.

For the companion appointment, select the option 'I am accompanying someone who is age 75+ to their vaccination appointment and my appointment is the same day.'

If individuals are unable to use or have difficulty accessing the internet, they may call 2-1-1 for assistance booking both appointments.

Only one caregiver is permitted to schedule an appointment with the 75+ resident. A caregiver may receive their first dose of the vaccine if the 75+ resident is receiving their second dose.